

25 January 1962

Approved For Release 2004/01/16 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000500050051-9

Ag 347  
X-2  
Ag 2  
McCarthy

TEXT

SENATOR MCCARTHY: "This is Senator Eugene McCarthy speaking from Washington, D.C. One of the most important hearings to be held during this session of Congress is the Armed Forces or Armed Services Committee hearings regarding the confirmation or possible confirmation of John A. McCone as the director of the Central Intelligence Agency. I was the first witness to appear at these hearings. In the past I have supported and advocated the establishment of a joint committee of the Congress to exercise continuing supervision over the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency, somewhat in the manner in which the existing Joint Committee on Atomic Energy does operate.

"The appointment of the head of the Central Intelligence Agency, in my opinion, ranks ahead in importance of most of the urgent confirmations for a number of reasons. One, because of the importance of the work and the nature of the work which is carried on by the Central Intelligence Agency. Secondly, because of the relative freedom of action which is given to the head of this agency and to his organization. And third, because of the existing practice and procedure no continuing direction or effective review of Central activities by the Congress is provided for.

"Intelligence activities, such as we are called upon to carry on in the kind of cold war or uncertain condition between war and peace in which we find ourselves today, raise many special problems and needs special attention. An article in the New York Times Magazine by Harry Ransom, I think, described the nature of the problem quite clearly. He said that whatever one's views, the existence of a secret bureaucracy poses very special problems for the American system of government. Knowledge is power, he said, and secret knowledge is secret power. A secret apparatus claiming superior knowledge and operating outside the normal check and balance of American democracy is a source of invisible government.

"Much the same point was made by Charles Wilson, the Secretary of Defense under President Eisenhower, when he said in a press conference these words: 'You see, he said, what I get for my purposes is an agreed-upon intelligence estimate. I have to take it or I would have to bore through an enormous amount of detail myself to try to say that they were wrong or right, and, he said, I accept what they say.'

"Hanson Baldwin, a military commentator to the New York Times, shared the same fears and apprehensions, as has Walter Lippman, the noted columnist, in a recent commentary on personnel changes in